(b) At present, there are 13.38 Judges per million population in the country.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There are various causes for the huge arrears of cases in Courts. Besides the shortage of Judges, the other reasons, *inter-alia,* include, larger institution of cases on account of increased awareness of rights on the part of the citizens, rise in population, granting of adjournments, industrial development in the country, increased trade and commerce, socio-economic, legislative and administrative measures touching the life of the citizens of all levels, tendency of litigants, lawyers' strike, etc.

The Judge strength in Supreme Court is as per the Constitution of India. The judge strength in the High Courts is reviewed once in three years on the basis of figures of institution and disposal by each High Court. As regards District Courts, the primary responsibility for taking necessary action for increasing the Judges strength as well as filling up of the existing vacancies vests with the State Governments. State Governments have been periodically requested to fill up vacant posts in Subordinate Judiciary.

Funds for free legal assistance to poor in Gujarat

3031. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated by Government to provide free legal assistance to poor persons during the last one year in Gujarat;

(b) whether Gujarat Government has utilized the said amount; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Funds are not allocated directly to the State Governments. In terms of Sub-section (c) of Section 4 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) allocates funds to the State Legal Services Authorities for implementation of Legal Aid Schemes and programmes propagated by NALSA which includes provision for free

legal assistance to the poor. During the financial year 2001-2002, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) permitted the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority to carry forward unutilized funds of previous year amounting to Rs.25,97,871.74 out of Rs.59.50 lakhs allocated in the year 2000-2001 for being spent during the financial year 2001-2002 for implementation of various Legal Aid Schemes and Programmes of NALSA.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Success of family courts

3032. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the success of family courts in terms of number of cases disposed of in the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the family courts are inadequate in number in some States; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the measures taken to open more family courts in those States?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Monitoring of the rate of disposal of cases by the Family Courts and setting bench marks of disposal for Judges is a substantive function of the judiciary. However, the Government from time to time, have pointed out about the low disposal of cases by some Family Courts. Some of the High Courts like the High Courts of Kerala and Patna have informed that the Judges of the Family Courts were given appropriate directions to enhance the disposal of cases with special attention to the cases pending for over a period of two years.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. States like Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh had empowered Additional District Judge in each Divisional headquarters to dispose of cases under the Family Courts. In some